

QUEEN OF THE BALLET WIRE CAUSED THEATRE FIRE IN WHICH NEARLY 600 LIVES WERE LOST

IT IS ABEEL, SAYS MISS ANDERSON

Girl Under Oath Declares that the Man Now Under Arrest Is the One Who Posed as "J. Ogden Goelet."

VAN EVERY LETTER IS ALSO RECOGNIZED.

Expected that an indictment will be handed down next week, and that extradition proceedings will be pushed.

Eleanor E. Anderson, the young woman connected with the arrest of James Nelson Abel at Welling, Ont., and who was courted by a man representing himself as J. Ogden Goelet, Jr., appeared before Assistant District Attorney Lord to-day and made a short statement in affidavit form, which statement will be used in the extradition proceedings, now under way.

Miss Anderson swore that the man now under arrest at Welling was the man she knew as J. Ogden Goelet, Jr., and she also identified a letter purporting to be signed by J. B. Van Every as the letter this man gave to her introducing himself.

It is expected that an indictment will be handed down next week against Abel. In the mean time the extradition proceedings will continue, as it is not necessary for the indictment to be handed down first.

WELLAND, Ont., Dec. 31.—After leading a life of luxury and ease while in the toils of the Canadian police, James Nelson Abel, charged with forging the name of James Van Every, now finds himself confined in a narrow dungeon, behind heavy prison bars in the jail here, where he is cut off from the world as though he were dead. Abel sits on the edge of his cot verging on collapse and murmuring incoherently that he longs for New York, and to be in the hands of the metropolitan sleuths.

Abel, the youth who has set the tongues of New Yorkers wagging over the sensation he caused by posing as "J. Ogden Goelet," and making love to Miss Anderson, shows signs of weakening, and he is apt to consent at any moment, regardless of his attorney's advice, to return to New York, for he now views the whole affair in an entirely different light.

Thought It Quite a Joke.

While he was being towed about by yellow journalists of New York and allowed to romp about under detention by the frontier police, Abel thought it quite a joke; but now that he is away from his friends, denied the privilege of seeing one and with bright prospects of long dreary, lonesome days in jail looming up before him, he finds himself deserted of the calmness and effrontery that have characterized his demeanor and given way to nervous strains and a longing for friends and their companionship.

Abel cannot be baited out. The extradition act under which his case is being handled will not allow him bail. If Attorney German appealed his case to the Supreme Court of Canada at Toronto, and bail was granted the New Yorker, it would take a week. He will be granted a hearing Tuesday, and by that time the case will come to a termination.

When Detective-Sergeants Valley and Collins obtained the warrant for his arrest from Crown Attorney Cowper yesterday morning the young man heard of it. A short time later he saw the detectives, and they talked with him. Then it was that he showed his first signs of weakening. He did everything within his power to appear cool and unconcerned, but his nervousness and anxiety for the outcome were visible.

Began to Waver.

"Say, Valley," said Abel, "perhaps I won't deprive you of the pleasure of riding back to New York with me after all."

Abel apparently was laboring under the intention of throwing up the whole affair and going back to New York when he made the above utterance. But his advisers said no, and Abel obeyed them.

After waiting until long after dark yesterday afternoon Attorney German appeared with Abel before Judge Wells. The Justice told Abel that he was wanted in New York for forging the name of James Van Every to a document for the purpose of defrauding, contrary to Section 514 of the Penal Code of New York. He further conveyed to Abel that a warrant for his arrest on the charge of forgery, third degree, had been issued.

Fifty Years in Use. Father John's Medicine cures colds, etc.

DECEIVED GIRL CRAZED BY GRIEF

Mrs. Talcott Goes to the Bedside of Miss Wighton, for Marrying Whom Her Husband Is Now in Jail.

MUST BE PUNISHED, SHE SAYS. FOR BIGAMY.

Innocent Victim Is Unconscious and Raves in Her Delirium About the Man Who Wronged Her, Protesting Love for Him.

Carolyn Louise Wighton, the young girl who was lured into a bigamous marriage by Herbert W. Talcott, has become insane from grief, and fears for her life are entertained. Dr. McKee, who has been in constant attendance on her since she collapsed at the news of the cruel deception of which she had been the victim, announced to Magistrate Flammer in the Jefferson Market Court this afternoon that Miss Wighton was a raving maniac and that even if her life is spared it is doubtful whether her reason can ever be restored. There is to be a consultation of physicians at the girl's home, No. 225 West Twentieth street, to-night.

Talcott heard this sad news in court, and the only visible effect it had on him was to cause his head to droop a little lower and his hands to tremble slightly. The tears came into the eyes of his wife, who is in court to prosecute him, at the news, and even the Magistrate showed signs of emotion.

Dr. McKee said that it was simply impossible to tell when, if ever, Miss Wighton could get to court. H. G. Wylie, who appeared for Talcott, asked for a further adjournment of the case, but the Magistrate peremptorily refused and held Talcott in \$2,000 bail for trial, and the lawyer waiving examination. The only testimony taken was the testimony of a maid employed by the Rev. Dr. Houghton, who performed the marriage ceremony between Talcott and Miss Wighton a week ago Thursday. She was a witness of it, and her evidence absolutely established the marriage.

Mrs. Talcott was in court with her aunt and uncle. She stood quite close to her husband during the proceedings, but never so much as looked at him. Several times Talcott raised his eyes to look at her, but quickly dropped them again when he saw that she was determined to ignore him. No one offered to bail Talcott and he was led back to the court prison.

Not Consoled.

Not once since she discovered that she had been deceived has Miss Wighton recovered consciousness.

All last night she raved and raved of the man whose heartlessness had brought her to such a plight, and for hours there sat at her side, with tears in her eyes, a tall, slender, dark young girl, Talcott's first wife, herself as badly wronged, as the child she was trying to soothe.

Three times since yesterday has Mrs. Talcott been to the home of her husband's victim to tell the girl how sorry she is for her and to offer any assistance in her power in straightening out the tangle. Three times as she lunged at by that bedside she has listened to the voice of another woman calling for her own husband in words of endearment. It has made a melancholy as well as a tragic situation and has served to further harden the heart of the young woman toward the man who wilfully wrecked two lives.

In her ravings she has revealed her great love for the man who wronged her, in spite of her full appreciation of the position in which he has put her. She may not, like Mrs. Talcott, be eager to inflict punishment on the young man. She may even refuse to have a hand in his prosecution.

Not so with Mrs. Talcott, however. She has declared that she will never let up on her husband until she sees him behind prison bars, not alone for the wrong he did her, but for the cruel wrong he did an innocent girl.

When Mrs. Wighton was seen to-day she gave as goody an account of her daughter's condition as Mrs. Talcott gave.

"All I can say," she said, "is God help my poor little girl. I have never seen such suffering. How any man could have been so cruel I do not know. I wish that he could look upon his work. He ought to be proud of it, the scoundrel!"

Talcott in his prison cell still hangs his head and says nothing. He will give no explanation, simply saying that over again in response to questions: "I had to do it. I had to do it."

Talcott's parents are dead and he was brought up by his uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Thomas, of No. 151 West Twenty-first street. Mr. and Mrs. Thomas are greatly shocked.

FAVORITES WIN AT NEW ORLEANS

Jockey Michaels Is Thrown from His Mount Bronx in Opening Event, but Escapes with Slight Bruises.

THE WINNERS.

FIRST RACE—Julia M. (even) 1, Overhand (30 to 1) 2, Allegrette 3.

NEW ORLEANS, La., Dec. 31.—Unseasonably warm weather prevailed to-day, but this only had a tendency to drive people to the race track.

The going was hard and fast and the sport interesting. The books received such a thorough drubbing during the early part of the week that four of five dropped off to-day. Those that were lucky enough to hang on recovered some of their recent losses, as the breakers lately have all been in favor of the layers.

FIRST RACE. 5 furlongs, selling. Starters, wags, jockeys. St. Hlf. Fin. Str. Pl. Betting. Julia M. 105, H. P. Jones 1 25 11 3-5 Overhand, 95, Robbins 4 35 25 30 10 Allegrette, 91, Hennessy 2 15 34 19 7-2 Silver Meade, 101, Salk 5 65 41 4 2 Hexam, 91, W. Fisher 7 51 28 8 3 Snow Can, 85, Robbins 3 41 62 29 8 Chats, 90, Hyams 8 7 1/2 150 60 Beautiful, 65, J. Dale 6 8 8 10 10 Bronx, 103, H. Michaels fell 5 7-5 Start straggling. Won driving Time—1:14.

SECOND RACE. One mile, purse \$400, entrance \$104 for three-year-olds and up, selling. Starters, wags, jockeys. St. Hlf. Fin. Str. Pl. Betting. Floyd K., 98, Fisher 1 25 11 3-5 Ditch Carter, 144, P. Hine 1 35 25 30 10 Commena, 100, Hennessy 7 42 31 6 3-2 Erbe, 105, Smith 2 25 41 19 7-2 Decoration, 89, Jenkins 9 9 51 13 4 Circus, 101, Munro 2 25 61 20 12 Cyrus, 104, Robbins 3 81 7 20 10 Trial More, 100, Rinnell 6 45 46 20 10 Venusia, 98, Butler 5 73 9 75 20 Meuser, 100, Ambushon, left at post 15 4 Start poor. Won easily. Place driving Time—1:41.

Floyd K. outclassed his field in the second race. Fisher kept him on the extreme outside in the run down the back stretch and escaped the crowding and interference. At the far turn he drew away from his field. This in the run home kept an increasing advantage. Ditch Carter and Commena after meeting with a lot of interference finished strong.

(Continued on Sixth Page.)

SPECIAL EXTRA.

HAYES WILL INSPECT ALL THEATRES

Nicholas Hayes, who will become Fire Commissioner tomorrow, in an official statement this afternoon, said that the catastrophe at Chicago points a lesson which New York must observe. New York has more theatres than any other city in the world. It will be his first duty, he said, to make official investigation in every theatre in this city with the idea of safeguarding the public.

AHEARN MAKES APPOINTMENTS. Borough President-elect Ahearn announced to-day the appointment of Matthew F. Donohue as Superintendent of Sewers, William Dalton Superintendent of Public Works and George Scannell Superintendent of Highways.

LATE RESULTS AT NEW ORLEANS. Third Race—Bon Mot 1, Ethics 2, Mynheer 3. Fourth Race—Dutiful 1, Our Nugget 2, Travers 3. Fifth Race—Jim Along 1, Sadducee 2, Caterpillar 3. Sixth Race—Loveta 1, Eva Russell 2, Dnsky 3.

\$250,000 IS MISSING, BANKER A SUICIDE

At almost the same instant that the State bank examiners at work on the books of the Bank of Staten Island, at Stapleton, S. I., the most important financial institution in Richmond County, discovered to-day that \$250,000 in bonds and cash was missing the startling news came over the telephone that Otto Ahlmann, for eighteen years the cashier of the bank, the owner of 90 per cent. of its stock, and one of the best-known club and

(Continued on Sixth Page.)

NEW YEAR FROLICS IN THE EXCHANGES

On the Produce There Was an Organized "Rough House," with a Band and a Shower of Breakfast Food.

The members of the various exchanges in the financial district had their usual New Year's Eve frolics this afternoon, all of which were marked by furious horse-play and boisterousness.

The Produce Exchange was the only scene of organized riot. There a frolic had been carefully planned by a specially selected committee. Great quantities of confetti, sawdust, shavings and breakfast foods had been obtained for the occasion. When the closing was sounded a storm of these flimsy bits were thrown from the gallery, falling in a dense shower.

This was followed by a "rough house," in which the brokers tore each others' clothing and jumped and struggled about in the showering confetti.

When their clothing had been torn sufficiently they rested while four members of the Exchange dressed like chefs attempted to sing as a quartet. The four had been chosen for the wicker in their pipes and created a delightful discord.

A sack race, an umbrella race and a fifty-yard dash, all of which were won by Josh Brown Small, wound up the programme. Mr. Small was rewarded for his sprinting ability by being stripped to the shirt by his admirers. Throughout the afternoon the Seventh Regiment band played a continuous medley.

On the other exchanges the frolic simply consisted of horse play, the tearing of clothing and smashing of hats.

SQUIRE'S SON SHOT DEAD.

Pistol Held by Eldest Boy of Minister to Cuba Went Off Accidentally. HAVANA, Dec. 31.—Fargo Squires, eldest son of the United States Minister to Cuba, accidentally shot and killed himself to-day. He was practicing shooting with a revolver and as the weapon failed to act properly, young Squires began to examine it when it went off as the muzzle was pointed at his left side.

The bullet passed through his heart and he soon expired.

WEATHER FORECAST.

Forecast for the thirty-six hours ending at 8 P. M. Friday for New York City and vicinity: Fair to-night; Friday partly cloudy, followed by light snow or rain; light to fresh westerly winds becoming southerly.

WHOLE FAMILIES KILLED TOGETHER

City Is Stunned by the Unprecedented Tragedy that Has Left Its Trail of Mourning in Thousands of Homes and Which Grows Greater as the Hours Pass.

MAYOR HARRISON APPOINTS SATURDAY A DAY OF MOURNING.

Members of the Coroners' Jury Compelled to Step Over Bodies Huddled on the Floors of Morgues—Calamity Affects Prominent Families All Over the West.

New York, Dec. 31, 1903.

Hon. Carter H. Harrison, Mayor of Chicago, Ill. The city of New York and all our people send heartfelt sympathy to Chicago, and especially to those so sorely afflicted by yesterday's calamity. (Signed) SETH LOW, Mayor.

CHICAGO, Dec. 31.—The reason why the asbestos curtain failed to descend and avert the Iroquois Theatre catastrophe yesterday afternoon has been discovered. Investigation shows that the curtain became entangled in the wire on which the queen of the aerial ballet was swung out into the auditorium.

The aerial ballet was a feature of "Mr. Bluebeard." At one period of the ballet the leader was suddenly swung clear of her associates and out over the heads of those seated in the orchestra, circling almost to the balcony rail in her flight.

This feat was accomplished by means of a strong wire secured to mechanism in the fly gallery. The wire, hanging on the mass of scenery, got caught in the bottom edge of the asbestos curtain and held it effectually when an attempt was made to lower it. This allowed the flames to belch out upon the struggling audience and roasted to death those who were not crushed in the jam at the doors.

ENTIRE FAMILIES KILLED.

How the fire literally wiped out whole families is illustrated in the case of E. C. Frady, President of the Strohber Piano Company. He mourns his wife, his mother-in-law, two sisters, a son and a nephew, who made up a theatre party at the fatal matinee.

Mr. Frady knew that his family had gone to the theatre yesterday evening when he heard the news of the fire. He could find no trace of them at the Iroquois nor in the improvised hospitals and morgues of the neighborhood, and with the hope in his heart that they had escaped he went to his home.

FOUND ALL IN THE MORGUE.

The house was dark. Weeping servants crowded about Mr. Frady, asking for news. With all hope gone, he hastened back downtown, and not until late this afternoon had he located five of his dead. Each body was in a different morgue. One of his sisters is missing.

One after another Mr. Frady identified his mother-in-law, his wife, Lillian; Mrs. J. H. Spindler, his sister; Burdette Spindler, ten years old, his nephew, and Leon Frady, ten years old, his son. The missing sister is Mrs. William Rise.

Mayor Harrison was in Kansas City, on his way to the Indian Territory on a hunting trip, when word of the calamity reached him. He got back to Chicago to-day and ordered that business be suspended throughout the city on Saturday, which will be the general day of burial.

BOARD OF TRADE CLOSED.

The Board of Trade closed to-day in Chicago as an expression of sympathy, and similar action was taken by the Boards of Trade of Milwaukee, Duluth and other Western cities.

There will be no New Year's Eve celebration in Chicago to-night. The blowing of horns and ringing of bells usual to the passing out of the old year will not be heard. Chicago will enter 1904 staggering under the weight of the greatest horror of her history.

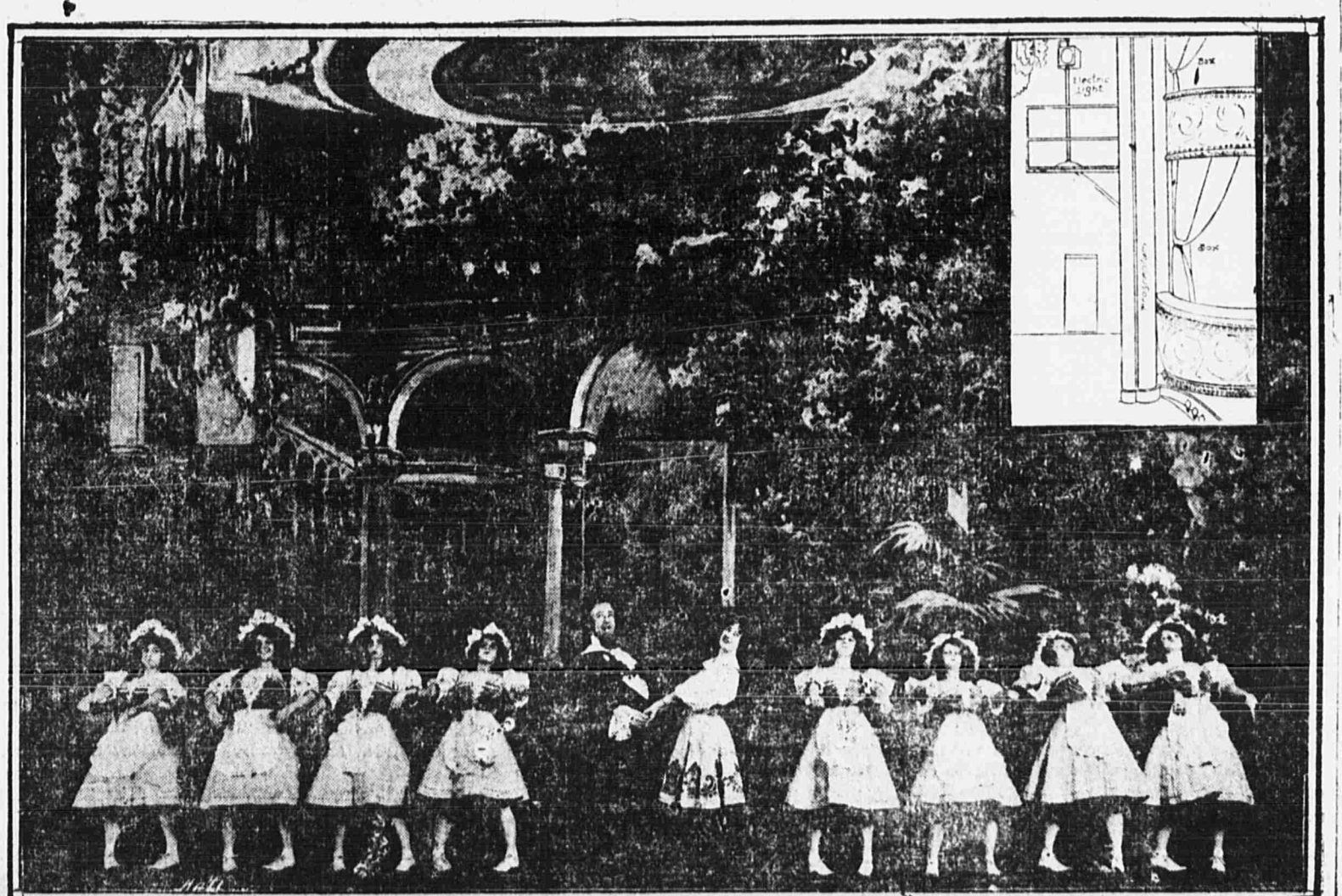
A pitiful feature of the disaster is the number of unidentified dead girls between nine and twenty years of age. There are fifty-seven of these on the list. In many cases the sole meags of identification lies in the color of the shoestrings. These girls were caught in the flames that swept out over the auditorium and were so scorched that their corpses are unrecognizable.

564 KNOWN TO BE DEAD.

There are 564 victims of the Iroquois Theatre fire in the various city morgues. In the hospitals and private houses to which the injured have

STAGE SETTING OF "MR. BLUEBEARD" JUST AS THE BIG FIRE STARTED.

The diagram in the upper right hand corner illustrates how the electric spark was conveyed to the delicate overhanging draperies which were set ablaze, causing the loss of nearly 600 lives in the panic that resulted.



The Moonlight Song.